

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to require their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the presidential election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get one company's slant on the news, with unbalanced presentation of information. This smacks of the kind of one-sided media we have always criticized in autocratic countries, and distorts the information stream needed for our citizens to make intelligent decisions.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.